

Message Text

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SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER CONTINUES CRITICISM OF OAS FREEDOM
OF ACTION DECISION

REFS: A) MVD 2578; B) MVD 2591

1. THE DEPTH OF URUGUAY'S FEELINGS AGAINST THE OAS ORGAN OF CONSULATION DECISION TO LEAVE MEMBER STATES FREE TO DEAL AS THEY WISH WITH CUBA WAS DEMONSTRATED JULY 30 BY FONMIN BLANCO WHO, ALTHOUGH ILL AT HOME, CALLED A PRESS CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS THE OAS DECISION. THERE FOLLOW PORTIONS OF THE MINISTER'S REMARKS WHICH AMPLIFY PREVIOUS STATEMENTS (SEE REFTELS) ON THE SUBJECT. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT HE ALSO REITERATED THE GOU'S STRONG FEELINGS AS REPORTED IN THE REFTELS.

2. URUGUAY'S POSITION IN THE INTER-AMERICAN SCENE. "CUBAN SANCTIONS DO NOT CONSITTUTE A FUNDAMENTAL THEME IN URUGUAYAN FOREIGN POLICY BECAUSE URUGUAY BASES ITS FOREIGN POLICY ON CONSTRUCTIVE THINGS, SUCH AS AGREEMENTS WE ARE SIGNING TYING TOGETHER ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS, (BUILDING) HIGHWAYS, BRIDGES, DAMS, COMMERCIAL ACCORDS, INDUSTRIAL COMPLEMNTATION, BINATIONAL BUSINESS VENTURES, AND ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL MISSIONS WHICH GIVE THE COUNTRY OTHER HORIZONS. OUR OPPOSITION TO THIS IS BECAUSE THIS ACTION OF CUBA IS AN INTERFERENCE WITH THE LARGER GOALS OF OUR INTERNATIONAL POLICY. WHEN WE INSIST ON THIS

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IT IS NOT A MERE, ALMOST CHILDISH, CAPRICE NOR IS IT A SMALL OR

RANCOROUS ATTITUDE. WE ARE PRESERVING THE INTEGRITY OF WHAT IS BASIC TO OUR FOREIGN POLICY. THEN WHEN WE HAVE REGISTERED OUR DISCREPENCIES WITH THE PROCEDURES OR WITH THE ESSENCE, WE WANT TO MARK THIS GUIDEPST, WHICH HAS BEEN THE POSITION OF URUGUAY. WE WANT TO SHOW THAT THERE HAVE BEEN FAULTS AND ERRORS IN THE PROCEDURES OF CONVOCATION AS THERE WERE ALSO WITH RESPECT TO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE DECISION BECAUSE IT FAILS TO RECOGNIZE A REALITY IN HEMISPHERIC LIFE."

3. DETENTE. "WITH RESPECT TO THE SO-CALLED POLICY OF DENTENTE OF THE GREAT POWERS, I HAVE EXPRESSED THE OPINION OF THE GOVERNMENT. IT IS ONE THING WHEN THE GREAT POWERS SEARCH FOR UNDERSTANDING, AVOIDING THE RISKS OF AN ATOMIC WAR, WHICH MIGHT PERMIT THEM TO REDUCE EXPENDITURES ON ARMS AND TILT THEM TOWARDS THE TASK OF DEVELOPMENT AND WHICH, IN A WORD, ASSURES PACIFIC MEANS. ALL THIS, NATURALLY, HAS OUR SUPPORT AS IT COULD NOT BE OTHERWISE. THAT WHICH WE OBJECT TO AND WARN OF IS THE FACT THAT UNDER THE SHELTER OF DETENTE THERE CONTINUES, NEVERTHELESS, A POLICY OF POWER, OF INFILTRATION, SUBVERSION, SEDITION WHICH LITTLE BY LITTLE MIGHT BRING DIFFERENT COUNTRIES TO FALL WITHIN A CERTAIN ORBIT."

4. POSSIBLE WEAKENING OF THE OAS, "AT THE QUITO MEETING WE INDICATED THAT THIS SHOULD BE HANDLED IN SUCH A WAY SO AS NOT TO PRODUCE CRACKS OR BREAKS IN THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM. FIRST, BECAUSE WE BELIEVE IN THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM AS AN AREA IN WHICH WE CAN ACHIEVE AN ACTIVE COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP AND BECAUSE THIS SYSTEM HAS BEEN, IN A CERTAIN SENSE, BUILT BY URUGUAY. IT IS NOT FAR-FETCHED TO THINK THAT THERE IS, ON THE PART OF CUBA PRECISELY, A TACTIC TO CREATE SUCH CONDITIONS WHICH MIGHT PRODUCE AFACIONALIZATION AND A POLARIZATION OF ORIENTATIONS IN THE SYSTEM AND WHICH MIGHT CARRY (THE SYSTEM) TO A SPLIT. IT IS EASY (TO SO THINK) PROVIDED THAT SOME COUNTRIES ARE SUBJECTED TO INTERVENTION BY CUBA AND OTHERS ARE LEFT RELATIVELY QUIET. WITH THIS DISPARITY OF CONDUCT THERE ALREADY IS BEGINNING TO BE SOWN THE SEED

OF CONTINENTAL DISINTEGRATION. BY NO MEANS DID OUR VOTE OR OUR ENERGETIC POSITION GO AGAINST ANY COUNTRY OR AGAINST THE RESPECT THE POSITION OF OTHER COUNTRIES DESERVES FROM US. IT (OUR VOTE) WENT TO SHOW, WITH ALL FIRMNESS, THOSE ASPECTS WHICH WE FOUND MISTAKEN, NEGATIVE AND WHICH WEAKEN INTER-AMERICAN SOLIDARITY. NOT BY OUR UNCLASSIFIED

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DISSENTING VOTE ON THE MAJORITY RESOLUTION BUT RATHER BY THE PROCEDURE

FOLLOWED TO ARRIVE AT IT AND BY THE VERY CONTENT OF THE RESOLUTION WHICH DOES NOT CONSIDER SOLIDARITY WITH THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH SAY THEY

ARE AFFECTED BY SUBERSION AND BY INTERVENTION AND THEY PROVE IT. THESE

ARE TWO FACTORS FOR AGITATION AND DIVISION IN INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS

WHICH DO NOT DERIVE FROM OUR MAINTAINING OUR POSITION. THEY COME FROM THE OTHER CURRENT WHICH CARRIES FORWARD, IN UNTIMELY AND EXTEMPORANEOUS FORM THIS MEETING OF CONSULTATION IN THE FIRST PLACE AND IN THE SECOND PLACE FAILS TO RECOGNIZE REALITY AND THE FACT OF THE

INTERVENTION OF WHICH WE HAVE BEEN THE TARGET."

5. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE U.S. VOTE BLANCO SIMPLY SAID THE U.S. HAD ARRIVED A A DIFFERENT CONCLUSION AND HAD EXERCISED ITS SOVEREIGN RIGHTS IN VOTING AS IT DID. ALSO IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS THE MINISTER ADDED THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE RESOLUTION CLEARED THE

WAY FOR CUBA'S RETURN TO THE OAS AND THAT THE GOU WOULD VOTE AGAINST ITS RETURN IF THE MATTER WERE BROUGHT TO A VOTE.
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